

CHAIR

- Public Works Committee
- Capital Improvements Committee
- Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award Selection Committee
- Historic Third Ward Architectural Review Board
- Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes
- Public Transportation, Utilities and Waterways Review Board



ROBERT J. BAUMAN
ALDERMAN, 4TH DISTRICT

VICE CHAIR

- Joint Committee on Streetcar Implementation

MEMBER

- Steering and Rules Committee
- Judiciary and Legislation Committee
- Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board

We are witnessing what happens when shareholder owned utilities are accountable to no one but themselves and their shareholders

Statement of Alderman Robert J. Bauman
August 13, 2021

The rash of power outages, some lasting for days, caused by severe weather is demonstrating that WE Energies, along with the other shareholder owned public utilities in Wisconsin are essentially accountable to no one but themselves and their shareholders. Unlike Milwaukee's water utility, which is owned by the citizens of Milwaukee and overseen by the Common Council and mayor, there is no one to complain to and no one to vote against when WE Energies fails to deliver on their responsibilities to their customers and the public. Customers cannot take their business to a different electricity supplier. They are at the mercy of WE Energies, an absolute monopoly accountable to no other than an obscure regulatory agency in Madison known as the Public Service Commission which is headed up by unelected politically appointed part-time commissioners who are largely beholden to the shareholder owned utilities they supposedly regulate.

This fundamental lack of accountability and oversight has been present for decades and represented a disaster waiting to happen. Well we have gotten a taste of the dimensions of that disaster this week.

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